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March 8, 2005

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Mr. Charles L. A. Terreni
Chief Clerk/Administrator
South Carolina Public Service Commission
Synergy Business Park, The Saluda Building
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

**Re: Intrastate Universal Service Fund
Docket 1997-239-C**

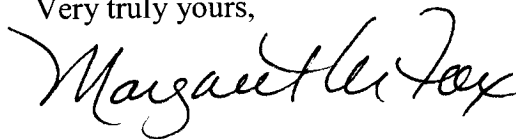
Dear Mr. Terreni:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of the South Carolina Telephone Coalition, please find an original and ten (10) copies of a Motion for Protective Order in the above-mentioned matter. By copy of this letter and Certificate of Service, all parties of record are being served with a copy of this Motion via U. S. Mail.

Please clock in a copy and return it with our courier.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



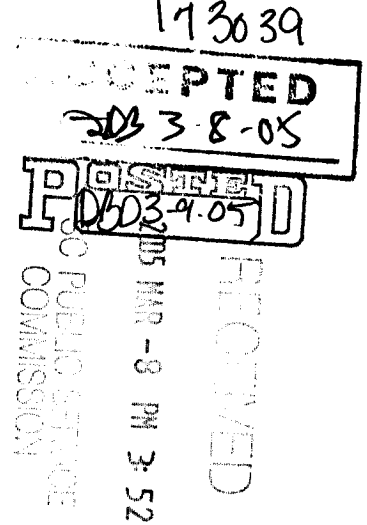
Margaret M. Fox

MMF/rwm
Enclosures

cc: Parties of Record

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 1997-239-C



In Re:

Intrastate Universal Service Fund)
_____)

MOTION FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER

The South Carolina Telephone Coalition (see attached list of companies) (SCTC) respectfully requests that the South Carolina Public Service Commission ("Commission") issue a Protective Order allowing the parties to this docket to designate certain materials provided to either the Commission or the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") as Confidential Information and directing that the materials so designated not be subject to public disclosure absent further Order from the Commission. This motion is made pursuant to Rule 26 of the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, Commission Regulation 103-854, and other applicable law, on the following grounds:

1. By its Order No. 2005-7 in this docket, the Commission acknowledged that the funds constituting the State Universal Service Fund ("State USF") have been physically transferred to ORS, and the Commission appointed ORS as the Administrator of the Fund subject to a further Order to be issued after a full consideration of the appropriate guidelines for such an appointment. Because of the transfer of the administrative function of the State USF from the Commission to the ORS, the SCTC hereby requests that the Commission issue a Protective Order to ensure that

materials that are provided to the Commission and/or to ORS to aid in the administration of the State USF and that are designated by the party providing the materials as Confidential Information will continue to be entitled to protection from public disclosure. This is consistent with the Commission's intent, as expressed in Order No. 2005-7, that staff members of ORS will treat such materials as confidential, either by continuing to be bound by confidentiality agreements signed in the course of their duties as former Commission Staff members or by being required to sign a confidentiality agreement before being allowed to review the confidential material.

2. The SCTC proposes that a party may designate as "Confidential Information" any materials that it provides to the Commission and/or ORS for purposes of discovery and/or administering the State USF that the party believes in good faith would be entitled to protection from public disclosure under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure or any provision of South Carolina or federal law. This may include but is not limited to workpapers, summaries, spreadsheets, models, diagrams, data, customer information, reports, or other documents either provided by a party in response to discovery or to requests for information from the Commission or ORS, or created or produced by the Commission or ORS during the course of their duties as administrator of the State USF, which contain proprietary business information of any party. It is appropriate to require the Confidential Information that has been provided to or will be provided to the Commission and/or ORS in this docket to be subject to a Protective Order because the Confidential Information contains proprietary business information regarding the providing party's operations.

3. In light of the current telecommunications environment, it is not appropriate to make detailed information regarding a party's operations publicly available. Access to this information could give actual and potential competitors an unfair competitive advantage.

4. Confidential Information has previously been provided under seal to the Commission in this docket, and the Commission has afforded such materials confidential treatment. Thus, confidential treatment of the Confidential Information, as requested in this motion, is consistent with the Commission's prior rulings and prior treatment of similar information.

5. Confidential Information provided to the Commission or ORS which falls within the scope of the Commission's Protective Order will be filed in a sealed envelope with each page marked "Confidential" in red ink, or with other markings that are reasonably calculated to alert custodians of the materials to their confidential or proprietary nature.

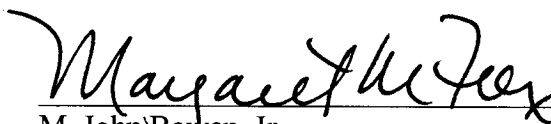
6. The SCTC proposes that the Commission provide that persons or entities may apply to the Commission for a ruling that materials designated as Confidential Information are not entitled to such status and protection from public disclosure. In that event, the party that designated the materials as Confidential Information shall be given notice of the application and an opportunity to respond. The materials that are subject to such an application should continue to be protected from public disclosure unless the Commission enters an Order to the contrary.

7. A Proposed Protective Order is attached to this Motion for the Commission's consideration.

WHEREFORE, the South Carolina Telephone Coalition respectfully requests that the Commission grant this motion requesting that certain materials be treated as confidential, and grant such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

McNair Law Firm, P.A.
Post Office Box 11390
Columbia, South Carolina 29211
(803) 799-9800

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Margaret M. Fox". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

M. John Bowen, Jr.
Margaret M. Fox

ATTORNEYS FOR THE SOUTH CAROLINA
TELEPHONE COALITION

Columbia, South Carolina
March 8, 2005

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 1997-239-C

In Re:

Intrastate Universal Service Fund)
_____)

PROPOSED PROTECTIVE ORDER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (“Commission”) upon the Motion of the South Carolina Telephone Coalition (“SCTC”), on behalf of itself and its individual member companies (“Companies”) for a Protective Order. The Commission has determined that the Motion should be granted and hereby adopts the following Order in order to facilitate the sharing of information while adequately protecting material entitled to be kept confidential:

1. By Order No. 2005-7 in this docket, this Commission appointed ORS as the Administrator of the Fund subject to a further Order to be issued after a full consideration of the appropriate guidelines for such an appointment. Because of the transfer of the administrative function of the State Universal Service Fund (“State USF”) from the Commission to the ORS, we grant SCTC’s request for a Protective Order to ensure that materials that are provided to the Commission and/or ORS to aid in the administration of the State USF and that are designated by the providing party as Confidential Information will continue to be entitled to protection from public disclosure. This is consistent with our intent, as expressed in Order No. 2005-7, that staff

members of ORS will treat such materials as confidential, either by continuing to be bound by confidentiality agreements signed in the course of their duties as former Commission Staff members or by being required to sign a confidentiality agreement before being allowed to review the confidential material.

2. The “Confidential Information” is material that a party designates as “Confidential Information” and that is provided to the Commission and/or ORS for purposes of discovery and/or administering the State USF that the party believes in good faith would be entitled to protection from public disclosure under the South Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure or any provision of South Carolina or federal law. This may include but is not limited to workpapers, summaries, spreadsheets, models, diagrams, data, customer information, reports, or other documents either provided by a party in response to discovery or to requests for information from the Commission or ORS, or created or produced by the Commission or ORS during the course of their duties as administrator of the State USF, which contain proprietary business information of any party. It is appropriate to require the Confidential Information that has been provided to or will be provided to the Commission and/or ORS in this docket to be subject to a Protective Order because the Confidential Information contains proprietary business information regarding the providing party’s operations.

3. In light of the current telecommunications environment, it is not appropriate to make detailed information regarding a party’s operations publicly available. Access to this information could give actual and potential competitors an unfair competitive advantage.

4. Confidential Information has previously been provided under seal to the Commission in this docket, and the Commission has afforded such materials confidential treatment. Thus, confidential treatment of the Confidential Information, as requested in this motion, is

consistent with the Commission's prior rulings and prior treatment of similar information.

5. Confidential Information provided to the Commission or ORS which falls within the scope of the Commission's Protective Order will be filed in a sealed envelope with each page marked "Confidential" in red ink, or with other markings that are reasonably calculated to alert custodians of the materials to their confidential or proprietary nature.

6. Persons or entities may apply to the Commission for a ruling that materials designated as Confidential Information are not entitled to such status and protection from public disclosure. In that event, the party that designated the materials as Confidential Information shall be given notice of the application and an opportunity to respond. The materials that are subject to such an application should continue to be protected from public disclosure unless the Commission enters an Order to the contrary.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chairman

ATTEST:

Executive Director

(SEAL)

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NO. 1997-239-C

RECEIVED
2005 MAR -8 PM 3:52
SC PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION

In Re:

Intrastate Universal Service Fund)
_____)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Rebecca W. Martin, Secretary for McNair Law Firm, P. A., do hereby certify that I have this date served one (1) copy of the attached Motion for Protective Order in the above-referenced matter on the following parties of record by causing said copy to be deposited with the United States Mail, first class postage prepaid, affixed thereto and addressed as follows:

/ Florence Belser, Esquire
South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff
Post Office Box 11263
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

John J. Pringle, Jr., Esquire
Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims, P.A.
Post Office Box 2285
Columbia, SC 29202

John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire
Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A.
Post Office Box 8416
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416

Nanette Edwards, Esquire
ITC^DeltaCom Communications
4092 S. Memorial Parkway
Huntsville, AL 35802

Frank R. Ellerbe, III, Esquire
Robinson, McFadden & Moore, P. C.
Post Office Box 944
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Patrick W. Turner, Esquire
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.
Post Office Box 752
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Stan J. Bugner , State Director
Verizon Select Services, Inc.
1301 Gervais Street, Suite 825
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Steven W. Hamm, Esquire
Richardson Plowden Carpenter & Robinson, P. A.
Post Office Drawer 7788
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

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Darra W. Cothran, Esquire
Woodward Cothran & Herndon
Post Office Box 12399
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-2399

Craig K. Davis, Esquire
1420 Hagood Avenue
Columbia, South Carolina 29205-1327

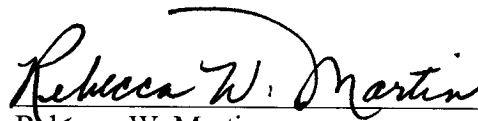
Faye A. Flowers, Esquire
Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, L.L.P.
Post Office Box 1509
Columbia, South Carolina 29202-1509

Robert D. Coble, Esquire
Nexsen Pruet Jacobs Pollard & Robinson, L.L.C.
Post Office Drawer 2426
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Scott Elliott, Esquire
Elliott & Elliott, P.A.
721 Olive Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29205

Robert E. Tyson, Jr., Esquire
Sowell Gray Stepp & Lafitte, L.L.C.
Post Office Box 11449
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Susan Berkowitz, Director
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
Post Office Box 7187
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca W. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "R" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rebecca W. Martin
McNair Law Firm, P.A.
Post Office Box 11390
Columbia, South Carolina
(803) 799-9800

March 8, 2005

Columbia, South Carolina